The Heart Betrothed to Christ, as the Bride to the Bridegroom

If we are drawn by the beauty of His perfect character, this will lead to admiration and love. Love will be awakened in us, along with the desire to become His bride. (I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please. Song of Solomon 8:4)

He draws us with the beauty of His character, with the beauty of His Kingdom, and He patiently waits for admiration and love to awaken in us— both for Him and for His ways. (And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:32)

When He becomes to us like a treasure of great value, and we are willing to give up the old things, then the Lord will enter into a relationship with us by making a covenant of love, so that we may belong to Him. (The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Matthew 13:44)

This is not a covenant like those in business relationships, but a covenant of marriage—a covenant of love. (Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine. Ezekiel 16:8; Thus saith the Lord:... I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Jeremiah 31:3)

God knows our hearts. He knows when we truly find and admire His beauty—when love arises from the depths of our heart. (God, which knoweth the hearts... Acts 15:8)

Only then are we ready to follow Him and to keep the Word of the Lord Jesus. Only then does the covenant between Him and us begin. (If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15)

The beauty of the heart of the Lord Jesus must be for us the greatest treasure a person can ever find. (What is thy beloved more than another beloved, that thou dost so charge us? My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand. His head is as the most fine gold... This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem. Song of Solomon 5:9–16)

Our relationship with the Lord Jesus must be like the engagement between a young man and a young woman—entered into only through mutual admiration and

wholehearted love. The Lord Jesus does not enter into a covenant with us simply because we want to avoid hell or because He offers us streets of gold in His eternal Kingdom.

He will not enter into this love relationship with us unless we are drawn by His beauty—unless we love Him more than anyone else. (He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:37)

Only someone in love can delight in the words spoken by the one they admire and love. (I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake. Song of Solomon 5:6; I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. Psalm 119:47; My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times. Psalm 119:20)

Only in this way will the Lord enter into a covenant with us—if our purpose is to live in a love relationship with Him and to prepare ourselves as a bride for the wedding with our Bridegroom. (The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. Revelation 19:7)

The Scripture tells us that in order to be freed from the dominion of the devil, to be cleansed from sin, to be reconciled with God, to be redeemed, and to make the new birth and our transfer into His Kingdom possible, the Son of God accepted to die on the cross. (...to give his life a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28)

The work of the cross is God’s gift to anyone who, upon hearing the Word, falls in love with Christ and repents of their evil deeds. The sacrifice of the cross makes forgiveness and redemption possible for the one who denies himself and fully trusts in Him. (Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13)

The sacrifice of the Lord Jesus makes this possible so that we may be placed in a new state—one in which He can work with us through the Holy Spirit for our restoration and perfection. (...sanctification of the Spirit. 1 Peter 1:2; Changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18)

God commits to begin the work of perfecting our character only with those who love Him with all their heart, who deny themselves, and who enter into a covenant with Him.

Self-denial is a mandatory requirement for anyone who desires to begin this new life. (If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and

follow me. Luke 9:23) It is clear that self-denial is the starting point in the plan of salvation—without it, there is no new birth.

This is the moment of entering the territory of the Kingdom, of being born again—a birth that few truly experience and which remains a great mystery to most. Many desire to enter the Kingdom of God for the blessings found there, but without making a real change in their lives.

The Scripture is very clear on this matter. The Lord Jesus tells us that many will seek to enter, and shall not be able. (Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. Luke 13:24)

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "The New Birth", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.